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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**  
Los Angeles 13, California

March 30, 1945



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. 100-21198

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON,  
alias Jacob Levy  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

Subject is a Communist key figure in the Los Angeles Field Division. Authority is hereby requested to install a microphone surveillance at the residence of subject, 4542 Coldwater Canyon Avenue, North Hollywood, telephone Sunset 2 8485. The Bureau has previously authorized the maintenance of a technical or telephone surveillance on subject at that address, which is currently being maintained.

LAWSON is the real leader of the Communists in the motion picture industry. He was reported Chairman of the Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party--U.S.A. (motion picture industry section) until it became the Communist Political Association in June, 1944. He is currently a member of the seven-man Motion Picture and Radio Commission of the Los Angeles County CPA which appears to set the policy for the Communists in the motion picture and radio industry. In addition, LAWSON is a member of the Executive Board of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, an important front organization in Hollywood, and is an official of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization which, of course, is currently writing all the scripts for the Overseas Film Bureau of O.W.I. LAWSON is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization, which committee is responsible for the entire product from the selection of ideas to writer and producer assignments in these O.W.I. scripts. Subject is also a member of the Executive Board of the People's Educational Center which has replaced the League of American Writers School for Writers.

It has been ascertained through Confidential National Defense Informant LA JO-1 and surveillances by Bureau agents that in any matter of importance to the Communists in the motion picture industry which arises, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON is consulted. Also, meetings of the Motion Picture and Radio Commission, the P.E.C., the Hollywood Writers Mobilization, and other meetings are held at LAWSON's home with great frequency. He also confers with ELIZABETH GLENN, former Northwest Section Organizer, who appears to act in the same capacity in the new cultural and miscellaneous group setup (which is the successor to the Northwest Section) about once weekly at his home.

It is believed that considerable information concerning the policies of the CPA in the motion picture industry and the radio industry and

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Director

March 30, 1945 *Ex*

Re: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, w.a.  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

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allied cultural fields could be obtained through the installation of a micro-phone surveillance at the LAWSON home. The Bureau's attention is particularly invited to the fact that LAWSON has stated that he and his wife, ~~SUE~~ LAWSON, are going to attend the International Security Council meeting at San Francisco which begins April 25, 1945. Therefore, if the Bureau deems it advisable to authorize this installation it is requested that Los Angeles be advised prior to April 25, 1945, since only in rare instances during the investigation of LAWSON have both he and his wife been out of Los Angeles together in the past. *(C)*

Very truly yours,

*R. B. Hood*  
R. B. HOOD  
SAC

100-21198  
JRV:RW

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